

Message Text

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SUBJECT: REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN STUDIES

REF: TOKYO 6831; STATE 117936

WINKS COMMITTEE, WHICH IN CONJUNCTION WITH ASA, HAS ALWAYS HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING FINAL SELECTION OF AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS, WISHES STRESS FOLLOWING FACTORS IN HARRIS CHOICE:

(1) HARRIS HAS VERY CONSIDERABLE DISTINCTION AS THE LEADING AMERICAN SCHOLAR IN THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF THE ARTS AND AS INTERPRETER ON HIGH LEVEL OF AMERICAN CULTURE; HIS PROMINENCE CAN BE CONSIDERED ON PAR WITH THAT OF SCHOLARS ALREADY CHOSEN TO ATTEND REGIONAL SEMINAR;

(2) THE LEAD-TIME ORIGINALLY ALLOWED FOR JAPANESE PLANNING COMMITTEE (JPC) RECOMMENDATION OF NAMES FOR WINKS COMMITTEE SELECTION WAS NOTABLY FORESHORTENED IN THE CASE OF ALTERNATE FOR LIPSET; THUS, WINKS ET. AL., WITH DEPARTMENT AND USIA BACKING, AGREED AFTER LIST OF 4 ALTERNATES WAS EXHAUSTED TO COME UP WITH NAME IN WHICH HOMMA, AS EX-OFFICIO MEMBER OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE FOR THE

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CONFERENCE, WOULD FULLY CONCUR. THIS UNANIMOUSLY AGREED

UPON SCHOLAR WOULD THEN BE APPROACHED INFORMALLY TO DETERMINE HIS AVAILABILITY AND HIS NAME FORWARDED TO SAITO/KUBOTA OF JPC FOR THEIR SIMILAR CONCURRENCE. THIS PROCEDURE WAS BASED ON KEEN AWARENESS OF TIME PRESSURE AND POTENTIAL DELAY INVOLVED IN NAME CHECK AND RELATED DEPARTMENTAL PROCESSING BEFORE GRANT COULD BE ISSUED BY DEADLINE OF JUNE 30.

(3) WINKS COMMITTEE ALSO WORKED UNDER OVERALL AGREEMENT THAT ALTERNATE INVITEES TO CONFERENCE SHOULD NOT COME FROM INSTITUTIONS ALREADY REPRESENTED BY DELEGATES WHO HAVE ACCEPTED INVITATION. (IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT IN LIST SUBMITTED IN POST'S REFTEL, TWO OUT OF THREE SCHOLARS ARE FROM UNIVERSITIES NOW REPRESENTED: HARVARD AND YALE.)

(4) ALTHOUGH IT IS TRUE THAT LITERATURE AND HISTORY ARE THE ONLY TWO DISCIPLINES REPRESENTED BY AMERICAN DELEGATES, HARRIS IS A SOCIAL HISTORIAN: HIS WORK IS ESSENTIALLY SOCIOLOGICAL AND HE WOULD BE PERFECTLY ABLE TO ADDRESS HIMSELF TO THOSE SOCIAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE FED INTO HIS ACADEMIC RESEARCH. (IT MIGHT ALSO BE POINTED OUT TO JPC THAT HENRY NASHE SMITH WAS AMONG THE TOP ALTERNATE CANDIDATES TO LIPSET AND THAT IF HE HAD ACCEPTED, THE AMERICAN DELEGATION WOULD STILL HAVE BEEN REPRESENTED BY THREE CATEGORICAL HISTORIANS AND TWO PROFESSORS OF LITERATURE.)

(5) IT WOULD BE VERY AWKWARD FOR WINKS COMMITTEE TO APPROACH ANY OF THE THREE NEW RECOMMENDEES IN VIEW OF FACT THAT HARRIS HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROACHED AND TENTATIVELY INVITED. IF JPC HAS STRONG OBJECTION, HOWEVER, BCICA WILLING TO RETRACE ITS STEPS; HOWEVER, THIS COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING TO THE ASA. INGERSOLL

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